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Forest Service News

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Public to Review Forest Service Regional Planning

A draft plan and supporting draft environmental impact statement covering Forest Service activities in the Pacific Northwest Region have been issued for public review.

The documents provide management direction for the 19 national forests in Oregon and Washington, plus coordination of forestry research and cooperative State and private forestry activities.

Comments on the documents are invited through November 2, according to Regional Forester R.E. Worthington.

The Regional Plan is one of three levels of plans within the Forest Service planning process. The first-level plan is the national program prepared by the Forest Service and submitted to Congress, as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA). In the RPA program, national objectives are broken down into assigned objectives for each of the nine Forest Service Regions in the United States.

The Regional Plan is the second-level plan and further breaks down the national objectives to each National Forest. National Forest plans, the third-level plan, then apply these objectives to the local level, while considering public issues and forest manager concerns pertinent to the specific National Forest.

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In addition to assigning the 19 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest their share of the national RPA program, the Regional Plan also provides planning direction for completing National Forest plans and a set of standards and guidelines for management of the National Forests, Worthington said.

Copies of the draft plan and supporting draft environmental impact statement are available in the Regional Office in Portland (319 S.W. Pine St., telephone 503/221-2971), National Forest headquarters offices in Oregon and Washington, and at many libraries.

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